

THE AUTOGRAPH.

VOL. 2.

NEBRASKA CITY, NEBRASKA, DECEMBER, 1887.

NO. 6.

The Gunther Folio and Autograph.

End.

In this statement, I have endeavored to avoid everything that could well be the subject of controversy or difference of opinion. The facts that have been proved in regard to your book, beyond all controversy, show that some time during the last century it was the property of a well-known actor, named John Ward, who was one of the first to take any interest in the personal relics of Shakespeare; that in 1781 it belonged to a certain Charles Lomax, and that in 1839 it had descended by the death of a former owner to the Rev. Iltid Thomas, of Bath, whose wife's father was named Charles Lomax. That the Rev. Mr. Thomas consulted Mr. Charles Godwin, a well-known bookseller of Bath, as to the book, and that the latter sent it for examination to Dr. Charles Severn, who was preparing the diary of the Rev. John Ward, once Vicar of Stratford-upon-Avon for publication.

Dr. Severn arrived at the erroneous conclusion that the inscription in the book had been made by the Vicar, and so stated in his publication. There seems every reason to believe, that the slip was pasted in the book prior to the beginning of this century, and the probability is very strong that it was John Ward, the actor, who placed it there.

Two theories may be entertained as to the signature:

One, that John Ward, who evidently took a great interest not only in Shakespeare, but in his personal relics, may have obtained some letter or legal document bearing Shakespeare's signature, and cut the autograph off and pasted it in his copy of Shakespeare's works for preservation. This theory is strengthened by the fact that he is almost the first man who visited Stratford-upon-Avon with such a strong personal interest in Shakespeare's personality as to be likely to make a diligent search for such a relic, and by the further fact that from Mr. Godwin's letter it appears that a seal formerly accompanied the book, and was supposed to be connected with the signature. So much might be urged in favor of this view, that—however easy it may be to doubt—it will appear upon investigation that there are as many difficulties in doubting as in believing it.

The other theory is that John Ward, having failed to find a genuine signature of the poet, took some opportunity to copy the last signature of the poet's will, and pasted this in his book as some little memento, even if a poor one, of the great dramatist. This would, of course, be done only for his own satisfaction, and without any thought of deceiving any one else in regard to it. Nothing but a careful comparison, by experts, of the signature in your book with that appended to Shakespeare's will, can definitely settle the question as to which of these two theo-

ries is true. I cannot pretend to be an expert in a comparison of signatures, and do not wish to express any opinion on the subject, as most of those who may examine the book will probably be at least as competent as myself to come to a correct conclusion on the subject.

Leaving this question in abeyance for the present, I believe that it is fully proved:

I. That the copy of the Second Folio now in your possession, is the one referred to by Dr. Severn in his Preface to his Edition of Ward's Diary, published in London in 1839;

II. That there is no presumption—and no claim possible—that a fraud or forgery has ever been attempted on the part of anybody in connection with your copy of the Second Folio;

III. That the slip pasted on the fly leaf of your copy of the Second Folio was so pasted there prior to the beginning of the present century. Yours very truly,

E. P. VINING.

I concur in the statements made in the within letter, and in each and all of Mr. Vining's three conclusions therein arrived at.

APPLETON MORGAN.

New York, Dec. 10, 1886.

[END.]

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Peel was in Parliament at 21, and Palmerston was Lord of the Admiralty at 23.

Henry Clay was in the Senate of the United States at 29, contrary to the Constitution.

John Hampton, after graduating at Oxford, was a student at law in the Inner Temple at 19.

Gustavus Adolphus ascended the throne at 16; before he was 34 he was one of the great rulers of Europe.

Judge Story was at Harvard at 15, in Congress at 29, and Judge Supreme Court of the United States at 32.

Martin Luther had become largely distinguished at 24, and at 56 had reached the top-most round of his world-wide fame.

Conde conducted a memorable campaign at 17, and at 22 he and Turenne also, were of the most illustrious men of their times

Webster was in college at 15, gave earnest of his great future before he was 25, and at 30 was the peer of the ablest man in Congress.

William H. Seward commenced the practice of law at 21, and at 31 was President of a State Convention, and at 37 Governor of New York.

Washington was a distinguished Colonel in the army at 22 early in public affairs, commander of forces at 43 and President at 57.

Maurice, of Saxony, died at 32, conceded to have been of the profoundest statesman and one of the ablest Generals which Christendom had seen.

Tom Moore began to write poems when he was 14; Southey wrote his first verse, when he was 11; Keats, and Chaucer at 12; and Milton when he was only 10.

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Longfellow on one occasion received from a lady[?] 100 cards, requesting that he would write his name on each, as she desired to present them to her guests at a Longfellow dinner party. The poet considered the tip more than the lady, who was a stranger, was entitled to, and declined.

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DOCUMENTS SIGNED BY

Elias Bondinot, 1769; Jabez Bowen, 1793; Gov. Robt. Bowie, 1812; Gov. Thos. Carlin, 1839; Samuel Chase, 1760; Samuel Chew, 1795; Gen. John Clifford; James Clinton, 1773; Judge Wm. Cooper; Wm. H. Crawford; A. L. S. OF

Gen. Jas. Bloomfield; Gen. Geo. N. Biggs, 1842 Sen. Chas. Carroll, 1835; Gen. Lewis Cass; J. Carter, 1827; Gen. John Clarke, 1814; Henry Clay; DeWitt Clinton, Lewis Condit, 1877; G. W. Crawford; J. J. Crittendon, 1867; B. W. Crowninshield; Isaac Chauncey, 1837;

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NEW YORK AGENT.

Mr. Arthur Levy, 391 Pleasant Avenue, New York City, is authorized to receive subscriptions and advertisements for THE AUTOGRAPH.

THE AUTOGRAPH one year and the privilege of the exchange column for twenty-five cents.

The Library of the late Henry Ward Beecher, now in keeping of the American Art Association, contains few novels. There is not even a copy of Mr. Beecher's Norwood.

Thomas Lynch Jr. is the rarest name among the Signers. A simple cut signature recently sold in New York for \$210, and the contest over it was very spirited.

In a late issue we called attention to a work being compiled by Mr. Lyon Tyler and asking for certain information; we hope those who can aid the gentleman will do so to the extent of their ability.

If H. E. Deats will send his post office address, we will be glad to comply with his request.

The Anacostia Herald, a bright local paper from Anacostia, D. C., is edited by an old autograph boy, Mr. Geo. O. Walson. They will show themselves once in awhile.

Ex-President Hayes says if he were to write General Logan's epitaph, he would quote from Senator Charles F. Manderson, of Nebraska, "His presence would make a coward fight."

We have a number of signatures of John P. St John and Belva Lockwood, presidential candidates, and "Eli Perkins, the biggest liar in the U. S.," which we will close out at 15 cents each, cash, no stamps.

Miss Rose Elizabeth Cleveland will be associated with Mrs. Martha J. Lamb in editing the *Magazine of American History*. She will probably take charge of a department under her own name.

Dealers and collectors should never refuse to send autographs on approval to responsible parties and those who furnish good references. Naturally a person desires to see what he is buying, and with autographs it is almost a necessity to do so.

We are compelled to omit the exchange department this month for lack of space.

Of former Presidents of the United States, Fillmore first saw the light in January; Lincoln, Harrison and Washington in February; Tyler, Jackson and Madison in March;

Grant, Buchanan, Monroe and Jefferson in April, J. Q. Adams in July; Taylor in September; Hayes and John Adams in October; Garfield, Pierce and Polk in November and Johnson and Van Buren in December. Tyler died in January; J. Q. Adams in February; Fillmore in March; Lincoln and Harrison in April; Buchanan, Polk, Jackson and Madison in June; Johnson, Van Buren, Taylor, Monroe, Jefferson and John Adams in July; Garfield in September; Pierce in October; and Washington in December. The ages of the Presidents at the time of their inauguration were as follows; Grant, 47. Pierce, 49; Garfield, Fillmore and Polk, 50; Jackson, 62; Taylor, 63; Tyler, and Arthur, 51; Lincoln, 52; Madison, 54; Hayes and Van Buren, 55; Johnson, 57; Monroe, Jefferson, J. Q. Adams and Washington, 59; John Adams, 65; Buchanan, 66; and Harrison, 68. Of these men, eight were Generals, and five had had experience as Cabinet Ministers.

The rest were for the most part Lawyers.

How would it do to publish the portraits of some of our big dealers and collectors together with a short biographical sketch. It would be very interesting reading and would develop a more friendly feeling than now exists between the purchaser and the dealer. We have broached the subject to several but they are all too modest to do so.

Now if all who receive a copy of this paper will write us a postal card with the names of twelve prominent dealers and collectors whose portraits they would like to see, we will publish the portraits of the twelve receiving the highest number of votes. They surely will not refuse when they know a majority of the autograph collectors desire it.

Autograph Collecting.

By F. D. ANDREWS.

Written for THE AUTOGRAPH.

A great deal can be said in favor of autograph collecting which may not be understood by those who condemn the pursuit as unworthy the time and attention given it.

Autograph collectors, who are such in the true sense of the word, are generally persons who venerate the past, and are able to recognize the virtues and qualities of the distinguished men and women whose handwriting they collect, and it seems, when veneration is becoming absolute, it is well to encourage that which shall persevere it. The influence upon one who can appreciate nobility and goodness in mankind and who comes into communion with those who possessed these qualities through the medium of their letters and documents is seldom considered. Can any one at all familiar with the history of their country look upon the autograph of Washington, Franklin, Lafayette, Samuel and John Adams and that host of worthy names connected with our most momentous history, and not feel a thrill of emotion in recalling their bravery, devotion and sacrifice in the cause of freedom. Can we forget our indebtedness to them for the liberty we now enjoy, and if we seek to link the past with the present as we read their thoughts indelibly expressed upon the page before us. Shall any one say our lives are not helped and strengthened by our appreciation of their noble qualities and moral greatness.

The value of a collection to its possessor should not be what it

will bring in the market, but rather what it has brought and will bring to them in developing and advancing their intellectual and moral nature. Estimated in this manner it is easy to discover whether it has been a profit as well as a pleasure. It may be safely said of autograph collectors, that, as a rule they are possessed of a degree of taste, refinement and culture, if not superior at least equal to those who "ride other hobbies."

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